Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for preventing the computer recognition of data, comprising:

receiving a request to print a document;

receiving a readability value from a user, wherein the readability value is a value within a range indicating a degree of readability of a text;

automatically determining at least one user preference based on the readability value;

modifying the text in the document based on the at least one user preference so that the text cannot be recognized by a character recognition algorithm; and

printing the document.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying comprises randomizing at least one attribute.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of randomizing comprises randomizing the at least one attribute on a character by character basis.

4 .   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of randomizing comprises randomizing the attribute on a word by word basis.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one attribute comprises at least one of character rotation; typeface; font size; character effect; and spacing offset.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying comprises at least one of using an uncommon font;

introducing a background image or a background color;

introducing a gradient film to a background of the document; reversing background and foreground of characters; and reversing background and foreground of portions of characters.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the readability value determines the degree to which the text is non-scannable within the range between readability and non-scannability, wherein a first set of nonstandard fonts are introduced into the text at a first readability value in the range and a second set of nonstandard fonts is introduced at a second readability value in the range, and wherein the text at the second readability value is more difficult to read and more difficult to scan by an optical character recognizer than the text at the first readability value the at least one user preference comprises a readability value.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of modifying comprises enabling modification techniques and setting modification limits based on the readability value.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
        receiving the at least one user preference from a user.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving the at least one user preference comprises:
        presenting a user interface.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the user interface comprises a slide bar, wherein the at least one user preference comprises a readability value that is set using the slide bar.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one user preference comprises a readability value that is set using the slide bar wherein the step of modifying comprises enabling modification techniques and setting modification limits based on the readability value, and wherein modifying further comprises:
        modifying a background associated with the text.

13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein modifying the background associated with the text further comprises:
        providing a first half of a character in a first color on a first half of the background, wherein the first half of the background is a second color; and
        providing a second half of the character in the second color on a second half of the background, wherein the second half of the background is associated with the first color, and wherein the

first color is a different color than the second color. ~~wherein the step of modifying comprises enabling modification techniques and setting modification limits based on the readability value,~~

14.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for preventing the computer recognition of data, comprising:

a printer interface, wherein the printer interface receives ~~receipt means for receiving~~ a request to print a document;

a user interface, wherein the user interface receives a readability value from a user, wherein the readability value is a value within a range indicating a degree of readability of a text;

a controller, wherein the controller automatically determines at least one user preference based on the readability value;

a text modification tool, wherein the text modification tool modifies ~~modification means for modifying~~ the text in the document based on at least one user preference so that [[5]]the text cannot be recognized by a character recognition algorithm; and

a controller, wherein the controller prints ~~printing means for printing~~ the document.

15.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the modification means comprises means for randomizing at least one attribute.

16.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the at least one attribute comprises at least one of character rotation; typeface; font size; character effect; and spacing offset.

17.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the modification means comprises at least one of means for using an uncommon font; means for introducing a background image or a background color; means for introducing a gradient film to a background of the document; means for reversing background and foreground of characters; and means for reversing background and foreground of portions of characters.

18.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the at least one user preference comprises a readability value, wherein the readability value determines the degree to which the text is non-scannable within the range between readability and non-scannability, wherein a first set of nonstandard fonts are introduced into the text at a first readability value in the range and a second set of nonstandard fonts is introduced at a second readability value in the range, wherein the text at the second

readability value is more difficult to read and more difficult to scan by an optical character recognizer than the text at the first readability value.

19.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the modification means comprises means for enabling modification techniques and setting modification limits based on the readability value.

20.   (Currently amended) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for preventing the computer recognition of data, comprising:

    instructions for receiving a request to print a document;

    instructions for receiving a readability value from a user wherein the readability value is a value within a range used to determine the readability of a text;

    instructions for automatically determining modifications to said text based on said readability value;

    instructions for modifying the text in the document based on the readability value at least one user preference so that the text cannot be recognized by a character recognition algorithm; and

    instructions for printing the document.